cushion and the walls thereof may affect the shock absorption and deformation capacities of the gel, thereby reducing the stress absorption effect.

5 From the German Utility Model DE-U-299 05 961, on which is based the preamble of claim 1, a composite footwear insole is known comprising a a front portion for interacting with the user's foot at the metatarsal region and at least partly at the plantar arch and a rear portion for interacting with the foot over the heel region. This known insole has a uniform layer of gel material covering the whole extension of the insole. As a consequence, this known composite insole is excessively expensive and does not allow transpiration at the foot areas that are more prone to sweating, such as the plantar arch and the metatarsal regions.

Summary of the invention

A primary object of this invention is to obviate the above 20 drawbacks, by providing a composite footwear insole having high comfort properties.

A particular object is to provide an insole which can uniformly distribute stress over the foot and particularly over areas subjected to higher pressure, such as the heel and the metatarsal regions.

A further object of the invention is to provide an insole which has a continuous surface in contact with the foot at the areas subjected to greater stress, which has no discontinuity in stiffness or other mechanical properties.

Yet another particular object is to provide an insole which allows transpiration at the foot areas that are more prone to sweating.

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These objects, as well as other objects that will be more apparent hereafter, are fulfilled by a composite footwear insole according to claim 1.

Thanks to this particular arrangement, a particularly comfortable insole may be provided, which can uniformly distribute stresses on the foot and particularly on the heel.

Brief description of the drawings

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Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will be more apparent from the detailed description of a few preferred, non-exclusive embodiments of an insole according to the invention, which are described as a non-limiting

- 15 example with the help of the annexed drawings, in which:
 - FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first insole according to the invention;
 - FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a second insole according to the invention;
- 20 FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a third insole according to the invention;
 - FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a fourth insole according to the invention;

25 <u>Detailed description of a preferred embodiment</u>

Particularly referring to the above figures, a composite insole according to the invention, designed for various footwear types, and generally designated by numeral 1, will

30 be described. /

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